

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-16 were pending, examined, and rejected. Claims 5 and 7 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 13-15

Applicants will begin with the rejection of Claims 13-15 because the rejection of these claims is most clearly in error. Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquardt in view of DE 100 31 778 filed by Stephan Betz et al. (“Betz”) and U.S. Patent 5,336,985 issued to Philip J. McKenzie (“McKenzie”). In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the references cited by the Examiner must disclose all claimed limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the references do not teach or suggest all of the claim elements.

For example, the references do not teach or suggest a feedback path comprising a transformer in series with an amplifier. The Office Action states that McKenzie FIG 1 “teaches a feedback path including a transformer in series with an amplifier (see operational amplifier 48 in series with the transformer 26 in Figure 1).” Applicants disagree because neither McKenzie’s transformer 26 nor McKenzie’s amplifier 48 are part of McKenzie’s feedback path. Even assuming for the sake of this discussion that it is appropriate to say that McKenzie’s transformer 26 is in series with its amplifier 48, an assumption that Applicants contest, McKenzie does not teach that these elements are part of its feedback path. McKenzie’s feedback path consists entirely of a feedback circuit 52 that generates an output signal VFB based on an input voltage VO1. Although McKenzie’s transformer 26 and amplifier 48 contribute to the value of VO1 that is fed back in McKenzie, Claim 13 recites explicitly that the feedback path itself includes a transformer and amplifier (in series).

Because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claim elements, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 13 and its dependent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 2-5, 7-10, and 16 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,650,906 issued to Rainer Marquardt et al. (“Marquardt”).

With respect to the anticipation rejection of independent Claim 5, Applicant has amended to recite that the voltage associated with the freewheeling device is fed back, without amplification. Claim 5 as amended, is not anticipated by Marquardt because Marquardt does not teach all of the claim elements. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Marquardt consists of three figures, namely, FIG 1, which depicts a prior art circuit, and FIG 2 and FIG 3, which depicted Marquardt’s invention. It is clear that the feedback path of FIG 2 and FIG 3 include amplification of the voltage associated with the Marquardt’s freewheeling diode. See, e.g., elements 46 and 44 of Marquardt FIG 3. While Marquardt’s FIG 1 does illustrate a non-amplifying feedback path (from Marquardt’s node C to Marquardt’s node G), it is clear that the FIG 1 feedback path is not read upon by the feedback path as recited in Claim 5. For example, the feedback path recited in Claim 5 is between the output terminal and a common input of a push-pull stage of a gate driver connected to a control terminal of the turned-off semiconductor power switch. Marquardt’s FIG 1 does illustrate a driver (6), but the feedback path of FIG 1 connects directly to an output of the driver (6) and does not connect to a common input of a push-pull stage of driver (6).

The Office Action supports the anticipation rejection of Claim 5 by indicating that FIG 1 and FIG 2 of Marquardt show a feedback path between Marquardt’s node C and Marquardt’s node G and that the details of the FIG 2 feedback path as depicted in FIG 3 disclose Marquardt’s

node C being connected to the common input of Marquardt's push pull stage 30 (via Marquardt's amplified output node 54). The details of FIG 3 are a "circuit arrangement" (28) and a driver (6).

Applicants amendment renders the feedback path of FIG 2 non-anticipating because the FIG 2 feedback path is an amplifying feedback path. Thus, Applicants' amendment leaves the feedback path of FIG 1 as the only feedback path available for purposes of supporting the anticipation rejection of Claim 5. Marquardt, however, does not teach its FIG 1 feedback path as feeding the freewheeling diode voltage back to an input of a push-pull stage of Marquardt's driver (6). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment and withdraw the anticipation rejection of Claim 5 and its dependent claims.

With respect to the anticipation rejection of independent Claim 7, Applicant has amended to recite that the feedback path is a non-amplifying feedback path. For reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to amended Claim 5, Applicants submit that amended Claim 7 is not anticipated by Marquardt. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment and reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 7 and its dependent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 of Claims 11 and 12

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquardt in view of U.S. Patent 6,100,742 issued to Ricardo Erckert ("Erckert"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquardt in view of U.S. Patent 6,531,908 issued to Gerhard Goeser et al. ("Goeser"). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to independent Claim 7 renders the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 11 and 12 moot because the cited references do not teach or suggest the feedback as recited.

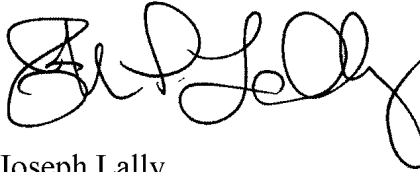
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this paper contains a reply to each ground of objection and rejection in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the pending claims, and withdrawal of the pending rejections.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2680.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lally', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joseph Lally
Reg. No. 38,947

Date: December 22, 2006

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